

the surviving spouses of certain former prisoners of war dying with a service-connected disability related totally disabling at the time of death; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. MACK, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRAIG, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1239. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat spaceports like airports under the exempt facility bond rules; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. GORTON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. GRAMS, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 1240. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a partial inflation adjustment for capital gains from the sale or exchange of timber; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ASHCROFT (for himself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BOND, Mr. BROWNBAC, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FRIST, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELMS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. KYL, Mr. LOTT, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THURMOND, and Mr. SHELBY):

S. 1241. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide private sector employees the same opportunities for time-and-a-half compensatory time off and biweekly work programs as Federal employees currently enjoy to help balance the demands and needs of work and family, to clarify the provisions relating to exemptions of certain professionals from minimum wage and overtime requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BROWNBAC (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. CRAIG):

S. Res. 124. A resolution to establish a special committee of the Senate to address the cultural crisis facing America; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. REID, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BROWNBAC, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. BAYH, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. BREAUX, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. BYRD, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. DODD, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HOLLINGS,

Mr. INOUE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERREY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBB, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Con. Res. 40. A concurrent resolution commending the President and the Armed Forces for the success of Operation Allied Force; considered and agreed to.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1231. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish additional provisions to combat waste, fraud, and abuse within the Medicare Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

##### MEDICARE FRAUD PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1999

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and my distinguished colleagues Senator DURBIN and Senator GRASSLEY, I rise today to introduce the Medicare Fraud Prevention and Enforcement Act of 1999. Both of these Senators have been leaders in the fight against Medicare fraud.

This bill will help solve an almost \$13 billion problem. According to the HHS Inspector General, waste, fraud, abuse, and other improper payments drained about that much from the Medicare Trust Fund in fiscal year 1998. Fraud and abuse not only compromise the solvency of the Medicare program but also, in some cases, directly affect the quality of care delivered to the 38 million older and disabled Americans who depend upon this program. Although this legislation will not prevent all of the waste, fraud, and abuse that now plagues Medicare, it represents an important step toward a solution to a problem that threatens the financial integrity of this vital social program.

Unfortunately, there is no line item in the budget called "Medicare Waste, Fraud and Abuse" that we can simply cut to eliminate this insidious problem. It is a complicated, difficult challenge to plug the holes that make Medicare at high risk for fraud and abuse.

In May 1997, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which I chair, started an extensive investigation of the Medicare program. So far, my Subcommittee has held three hearings in an effort to expose fraud and abuse within Medicare.

As the Subcommittee's hearings revealed, we are now seeing a dangerous and growing problem with Medicare fraud. Career criminals and bogus providers with no background in health care are increasingly entering the sys-

tem with the sole purpose of stealing hard-earned taxpayer dollars from the Medicare Trust Fund. Only tough deterrents can prevent these unscrupulous providers from entering the Medicare system. At the same time, however, we must be careful not to make entry into the Medicare program so difficult that the process deters legitimate health care providers. We owe it to the American public to strike this crucial balance.

During a Subcommittee hearing earlier last year, we heard testimony describing egregious examples of fraud committed by unscrupulous health care providers. For example, two physicians who submitted in excess of \$690,000 in fraudulent Medicare claims listed nothing more than a Brooklyn laundromat as their office location. We were also told that over \$6 million in Medicare funds were sent to durable medical equipment companies that provided no services; one of these companies even listed a fictitious address that would have placed the firm in the middle of a runway at the Miami International Airport.

While the number of unscrupulous providers in the Medicare program is very small relative to the number of honest providers, these criminals nevertheless are able to steal millions of dollars from Medicare, wreaking financial havoc on the program. This fraud contributes to the tremendous increase in health care expenditures and adversely affects the quality of health care given to our nation's elderly and disabled.

In response to the serious problems identified through my Subcommittee's investigation, Senator DURBIN, Senator GRASSLEY, and I are introducing legislation designed to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse by strengthening the Medicare enrollment process, expanding certain standards of participation, and reducing erroneous payments. Among other things, this legislation gives additional enforcement tools to the federal law enforcement agencies pursuing health care criminals.

One of the most important steps this bill takes is to prevent scam artists and criminals from securing the provider numbers that permit them to gain access to the Medicare system. Specifically, this bill requires background investigations to be conducted on all new providers to prevent career criminals from getting involved with Medicare in the first place. In addition, this bill requires site inspections of new durable medical equipment suppliers and community mental health centers prior to their being given a provider number. This will help close the system to those who apply for a provider number from a bogus or non-existent location. Together, these provisions are designed to make it more difficult for unscrupulous individuals to obtain a Medicare provider number